ACTION

AGENDA ITEM: CLSA System Reference

ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING: 2002/03 System Population and Membership Figures. (On Consent Calendar)

RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD: I move that the Library of California Board approve the System Population and Membership figures for use in the allocation of CLSA System Reference Program funds for the fiscal year 2002/03.

BACKGROUND:

Section 20158 of the Administrative Regulations for the System Reference program provides for an annual review and approval of System population and membership figures used in the allocation of System Reference Program funds by the State Board. Section 20106 stipulates that any CLSA funds distributed on the basis of population shall be awarded using the most recently published and available combined estimate for cities and counties from the State Department of Finance. The 2002/03 System population and membership figures are included as Exhibit A to this agenda item.

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

<u>CURRENT STATUS</u>: The CLSA System Reference Program continues to support regional reference services in all 15 CLSA Cooperative Library Systems.

Review and Discussion of 2002/03 System Plans: 2002/03 System Plans of Service have been received. Compilations of each of the three service components of the System Reference Program are included as Exhibits B, C and D. A review of the Plans of Service indicates that many Systems are continuing to target the geographically isolated, the limited English speaking, and children for the component to improve reference service to the underserved. Systems collectively plan to allocate over \$258,100 from their Reference budgets for the underserved component. (The full text of System Plans of Service is available to Library of California Board members upon request).

Exhibit E is a chart of 2002/03 System Workload estimated by system-level programs. Exhibit F reflects the workload history of the System Reference Program for the past ten years. A population profile is provided as Exhibit G which describes the demographic characteristics of the residents of the System service area.

IRANSITION PROCESS: Staff requests guidance from the Library of California Board in preparing a plan for the transition of this program and its funding to the Library of California for Board consideration, including when to stop requesting additional funds for the CLSA budget. The System Reference Program supports three separate components of reference service (general improvement of local reference, improvement of reference services to the underserved, and interlibrary reference). It appears that funding for the CLSA System Reference Program supports objectives included in the stated intent of the Information and Referral services (Reference) and Training and Continuing Education mandatory program elements of the Library of California. Although not a requirement, each Regional Library Network may apply to the LoC Board for funds to support underserved programs on a region-wide basis. These program elements would be the most likely target areas for transitioning this particular CLSA program into the multitype network of the Library of California.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE: Summary of 2001/02 System Annual Reports (November).

Relevant Committee: Access Services

Staff Liaison: Sandy Habbestad